



M 28 : 19



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

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THE 1ST MISSIONARY ANIMATION EAST ASIA AND OCEANIA SEMINAR

FR. VACLAV KLEMENT SDB, REGIONAL COUNCILLOR FOR MISSIONARY ANIMATION

The first EAO seminar of the Missionary Animation after the GC26 is a strong move towards the 'Urgency of Evangelization' (2nd nucleus). The



seminar is taking place at Tuloy sa Don Bosco Philippines exactly three years after the 1st Asian Missionary Congress in Chiang Mai of 2006. It motivates the 'Jesus story-telling' as the most fitting way how to proclaim the Gospel in Asia.

The EAO context calls first to form all Salesians as the 'missionary inter gentes' and also continue in the effort to send more missionaries ad gentes - ad vitam according to the needs of the Congregation and the universal Church.

Objective:

- Qualify the Salesian missionary animation in the context of East Asia and Oceania Region.

Specific Objective:

- Strengthen in each Province the Salesian missionary dynamics of the Delegates for more qualified missionary animation in the

perspective of the First Asian Missionary Congress (Chiang Mai, 2009) and the journey of the local Churches.

The East Asia and Oceania Region participants (Nov 16 - 18, 2009) -

- Australia, Fiji, Samoa (AUL)
- China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan (CIN)
- Indonesia, Timor-Leste (ITM)
- Korea South (KOR)
- Japan (GIA)
- Philippines North, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands (FIN)
- Philippines South, Pakistan (FIS)
- Thailand, Cambodia, Laos (THA)
- Vietnam, Mongolia (VIE)

Support the Establishment of the Missionary Animation Desks in every Salesian Setting!

The Arrival of Don Bosco in the Philippines Requests made to the Salesians 1891 - 1951

Fr. Greg E. Bicomong SDB

Requests from the Governor General

The request of 1891 from Gov. Gen Eulogio Despujol, during the Spanish era to invite the Salesians to come to the Philippines to open a Trade School did not prosper. His term of office was cut short before the Salesian Superiors could even seriously consider his offer. It took about a year and a half before the Superior Council in Turin could deliberate the particular request. The decision was not a categorical "no" but an explanation of a matter of policy that the Salesians would not go since they were not really invited to. The change of governorship from Despujol to Blanco in 1893 was a signal of a dramatic turn of events. There was no formal follow up of request made. Likewise, due to the worsening political unrest in the Philippines was gradually leading to the historical Philippine Revolution of 1896, the Salesians had to wait for about a decade before another arrangement could be made.

Requests from Monsignor Ambrose Agius and Archbishop Jeremiah Harty

The sign of the Treaty of Paris in 1898 formally established American sovereignty over the Philippines. In this new climate of freedom at the dawn of the 20th century, much harm was done to the Church where aggressive Protestants from the US, the local Aglipayans and other anti-Catholic groups began attacking the Church. A big number of public schools were established under the control either the freemasons or the Protestants. Many parishes were left out without their pastors because of shortage of Catholic priests and the exodus of many Spanish religious from the country. In general, these brought about a decline in Catholic instruction and an ignorance of the faith among the young people.



One of the lasting legacies of American colonization is the educational system in the Philippines established mostly by Protestants and other denominations.

THE PILGRIMAGE OF DON BOSCO'S CASKET



On 25 April at Valdocco, Turin, in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians the casket containing a special relic of Don Bosco will be blessed before setting out to visit in the next few years the countries in which the Salesians are present.

The pilgrimage of the casket which will cross the five continents is the idea of the Rector Major of the Salesians, Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva, in preparation for the bi-centenary of the birth of Don Bosco to be celebrated in 2015.

The presentation and the blessing of the casket will take place in conjunction with the celebration of the Thanksgiving Feast-day of the Special Circumscription of Piedmont and the Val d'Aosta (ICP). After presiding at Mass Fr Pascual Chávez will bless the casket which will be carried in procession from inside the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians to the courtyard outside.

From the courtyard where the Saint from Turin worked for the benefit of so many boys, the casket will begin its pilgrimage round the world.

The Casket

The casket, the work of the architect Gianpiero Zoncu, has been made of aluminium, bronze and glass. The artists employed were Marco Berrone (blacksmith), Francesco Boglione (carpenter), and the glass is from the Bivetro Company. The De Carli Artistic Foundry produced the metal structures and the PerlaLuce Company was responsible for the illumination.

The base of the casket is in the form of a bridge supported by four pillars which bear the dates of the bi-centenary: 1815-2015. They are decorated, on the ends of the casket, with square tiles with the faces of young people from the five continents made by the sculptor Gabriele Garbolino. The coat



of arms of the Salesian Congregation which this year is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its foundation and the charismatic motto adopted by Don Bosco himself – Da mihi animas, cetera tolle – complete the decoration of the case.

Including the base, the casket is 253 cm long, 100cm wide and 132cm high with a total weight of 530 kg.

Inside is a statue of Don Bosco similar to the one in the casket preserved in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians. It was made by the sculptor Garbolino and the Apostolato Liturgico, and Sr Anna Scaglia FMA made the vestments. The face has been reproduced from the mask made by Cellini the day after Don Bosco died.

The Pilgrimage

At the end of the short blessing ceremony, the casket will begin its pilgrimage around the world. The logistics for the pilgrimage have been entrusted to the Roberto Bertoli Company and the Missioni Don Bosco in Turin.

The first stage will be in Lazio. After a stop at the Poor Clares Monastery in Città della Pieve, the casket will travel through several cities - Frascati, Latina, Formia,

Castelgandolfo, Genzano – and stop at several Salesian houses in the capital. The pilgrimage in the Lazio region will finish at the end of June at the Generalate of the Salesians in via della Pisana and will then head off for Latin America.

The first international phase of the pilgrimage will see the casket in the Salesian Region of America South Cone and it will pass through Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil.

The programme of the pilgrimage which will end on 31 January 2014.

Inter-America, Region between March and October 2010

* East Asia Oceania Region, between November 2010 and April 2011

* South Asia Region, between may and November 2011

* Africa-Madagascar Region, between December 2011 and April 2012, July and August 2012

* West Europe Region, May and June and between September and November 2012

* North Europe Region between December 2012 and August 2013

* Italy MOR Region, between September 2013 and January 2014.



1859-2009

SALESIAN
OF DON BOSCO

150th - Anniversary Salesian "Holy Year"

2009 is the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the Society of St Francis de Sales (the Salesians). The Rector Major, Fr Pasqual Chavez, has therefore declared 2009 a Salesian "Holy Year" and a year of grace for the renewal of the Salesian spirit in the all Salesian works throughout the world. There will be a number of local and national celebrations and professional learning opportunities associated with this significant anniversary for the Salesian Family.